

CALL for applications



PhD course 7,5 credits *summer 2019* *Space, politics and aesthetics*

We are hereby happy to announce the PhD course *Space, Politics and Aesthetics*; a close reading and seminar-based course, running over the summer 2019, with meetings in June and August.

The purpose of the course is for the doctoral student to gain basic acquaintance with the field of political aesthetics through close reading of central texts, and to be able to position the own work in relation to the field, thereby facilitating a deepened, cross-disciplinary discussion about some of the pressing issues of our times.

Content

The course is motivated by the increasing attention to fundamental ontological aspects that accompanies current political debates. Political polarization has prompted a new awareness as concerns the conditioning of worldviews, the role of spatial imaginaries, ideas of commonality or 'givenness', attitudes to transformative agency and articulations; basic qualitative conceptions often embedded in opaque technologies and discrete infrastructures. The key text in the course is Mustafa Dikeç's *Space, Politics and Aesthetics* (2015), which takes as its point of departure the centrality of space to political thinking. Through a brief presentation and discussion of Immanuel Kant's (1724– 1804) aesthetics, in particular the third critique, *Critique of Judgement* (1790), the book introduces and discusses the thinking of Hanna Arendt, Jean-Luc Nancy, and Jacques Rancière, thereby answering to the demand for interdisciplinary study across the fields of politics, geography, philosophy and aesthetics. Special attention will be given to

the generic competences of reading, interpreting and articulating. The course will also facilitate discussion about contemporary dilemmas and controversies as concerns the basic conditioning of politics, including the forms and means of present political imaginaries and manifestations, as approached in the projects of the course participants.

Work formats

The course will take the form of a colloquium structured around Dikeç's book, and including brief introductory lectures and seminars. Senior researchers, primarily the course responsables, will introduce the readings and ongoing research in relation to key texts, facilitating close reading and interpretation. Discussion will be prioritized, and will be fostered by assigning students the task of preparing and presenting selected readings. The course includes three one day meetings, two in June and one in August. Primary readings are offered in the course plan, and students will be invited to propose additional secondary readings related to their work. Some additional texts apart from the texts listed, will also be made available in due time, a month before the first meeting. The course also includes presentations and discussions of the students' own course submissions, an assignment that will primarily concern the relation of the theme of the course to the student's doctoral thesis and to her/his own discipline.

Formats for assessing student performances

The assessment of the student's performance will be based on active participation in discussions, presentation of readings, and the submission of an individual short paper (3500 words). The grading is pass or fail.

Entry requirements and application deadline

Students must be admitted to third cycle studies. A short written motivation and an approval of the main supervisor is also required.

The deadline for application is 23 April.

If you have questions, feel free to contact us!

Professor Maria Hellström Reimer, maria.hellstrom.reimer@mau.se

Professor Mustafa Dikeç, mustafa.dikec@mau.se

Preliminary schedule and reading list

Basic

Dikeç, Mustafa (2015) *Space, Politics and Aesthetics*. Edinburgh University Press.

Seminar 1 – Thursday 13 June

Time: 09.00-17.00

Place: Malmö University, Niagara Building, Nordenskiöldsgatan 1

Dikeç, Mustafa (2015) *Space, Politics and Aesthetics*, pp. 1-60.

Kompridis, Nikolas (2014) Turning and returning: The aesthetic turn in political thought. In Kompridis, N. (ed.) *The Aesthetic Turn in Political Thought*. New York: Bloomsbury.
Arendt, Hanna (1958) *The Human Condition*. Excerpts to be defined.
Arendt, Hanna (1977) *Between Past and Future*. Excerpts to be defined.

Seminar 2 – Wednesday 26 June

Time: 09.00-17.00

Place: Malmö University, Niagara Building, Nordenskiöldsgatan 1

Dikeç, Mustafa (2015) *Space, Politics and Aesthetics*, pp. 61-105.
Nancy, Jean-Luc (2000) *Being Singular Plural*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. Excerpt to be defined.
Further readings to be added.

Seminar 3 – Wednesday 28 August

Time: 09.00-17.00

Place: Malmö University, Niagara Building, Nordenskiöldsgatan 1

Dikeç, Mustafa (2015) *Space, Politics and Aesthetics*, pp. 106-128.
Rancière, Jacques (2004) *The Politics of Aesthetics*. London: Continuum.
Rancière, Jacques (2009) *Aesthetics and its Discontents*. Cambridge: Polity.
Rancière, Jacques (2011) The Thinking of Dissensus: Politics and Aesthetics. In Bowman and Stamp (eds.) *Reading Rancière*. London: Continuum.

Further resources

(excerpts to be defined)

Kant, Immanuel *The Critique of the Power of Judgment*. Cambridge University Press.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/48433>

Kant, Immanuel *The Critique of the Pure Reason*. Cambridge University Press.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4280>

Kant, Immanuel *The Critique of Practical Reason*. Cambridge University Press.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/5683>

Rohlf, Michael, "Immanuel Kant", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Summer 2018 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2018/entries/kant>

Transitional regulations

In situations where the course is no longer offered or the course contents have been significantly changed, the doctoral candidate has the right, during a period of one year following the change, to be examined on two different occasions in accordance with the course syllabus valid at the date of registration.

Course evaluation

The course ends with a written course evaluation. The result from the evaluation is summarized by the course leader and the doctoral student(s) are informed about the result of the evaluation. Also, and based on the evaluation results, the course leader defines improvements and planned changes in the course for the next time the course is offered.